

Election/Restrictions

Upon further review, claim 11 has been rejoined with the elected group.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Sheridan Neimark on 3/29/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification has been amended to add the following text at the end of the specification:

"BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES:

Figure 1: Figure 1 shows a micrograph of an iron-doped ceramic, in which the iron is visible as black areas which have a size up to only a few nanometers.

Figure 2: Figure 2 shows ceramic particles coated with carbon nanotubes.

Figure 3: Figure 3 shows measured conductivity of the ceramic of the instant invention."

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 12-16 and 20-22 have been canceled

Claim 11 has been amended to read:

“A process for producing a B/N/C/Si ceramic from a borazine precursor, characterized in that the borazine precursor is selected from B-tris((phenyldihydrosilyl)vinyl)borazine or B-tris((methyldihydrosilyl)vinyl)borazine, wherein the said borazine precursor is converted into ceramic by pyrolysis.”

Statement of reasons for allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

For the purposes of examination the B-tris((hydrosilyl)vinyl)borazine is interpreted to represent a B-((silyl)vinyl)borazine compounds where each of the silicon atoms are bonded to 3 hydrogen atoms. This definition is consistent with applicants' use of the term B-tris((hydrosilyl)vinyl)borazine throughout the specification. For example, see pages 5 and 6 of the specification, particularly compounds III, IIIa, IIIb and IIIc and the text on lines 14-15 of page 5 for how the applicant names the compounds.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yevgeny Valenrod whose telephone number is 571-272-9049. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Sullivan can be reached on 571-272-0779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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